

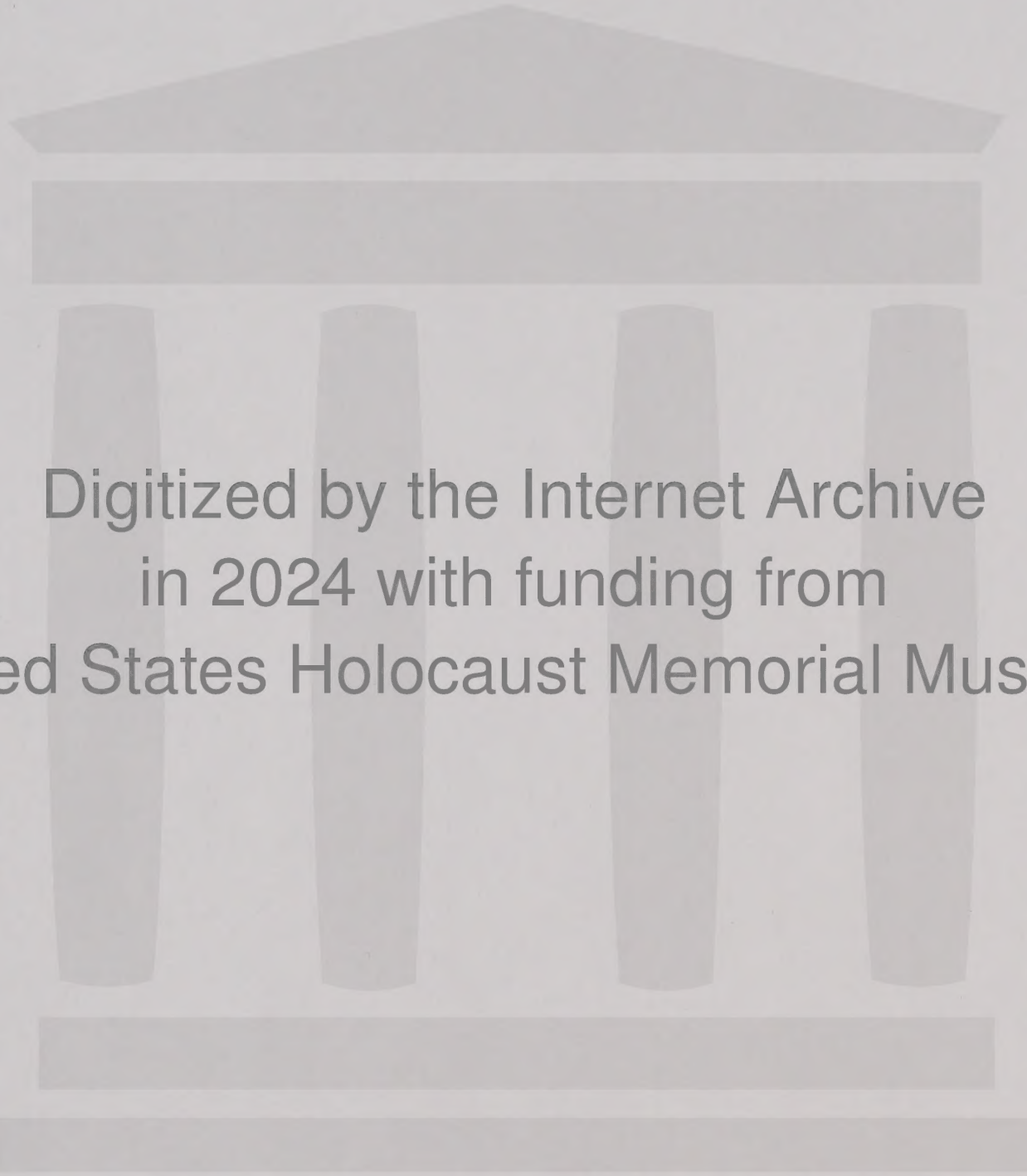


ועידת התביעות
Claims Conference
Conference on Jewish Material Claims
Against Germany

Claims Conference Holocaust Survivor Memoir Collection

Access to the print and/or digital copies of memoirs in this collection is made possible by USHMM on behalf of, and with the support of, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum respects the copyright and other intellectual property rights associated with the materials in its collection and makes good faith efforts to determine the copyright status of such materials. The Museum has a good faith belief that the materials in this collection may be made publicly available. The Museum welcomes additional information about copyright status. If you have additional information or concerns about the copyright ownership of materials in this collection, please contact the Museum's Library by phone at 202-479-9717 or by email at reference@ushmm.org.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2024 with funding from
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

<https://archive.org/details/bib292866>

WILLING HANDS AND HEART
EULOGY FOR ABRAHAM GUTTMAN OF HORODOK

By Yehuda Merin

Ramat Gan, Israel, 1976

Abraham Guttman, of blessed memory, was born in 1885 in the small town of Horodok in the northern part of the District of Wolyn. Before World War I, approximately 70 Jewish families had lived there in less than comfortable economic circumstances but with rich spiritual values, as was typical of a large number of the many towns in Wolyn at that time.

The youths, feeling suffocated socially and financially, looked outward to better lives elsewhere. Many of them emigrated to the United States or to South America.

At the age of 16 Abraham reached America, rolled up his sleeves and became a builder. On the scaffolds he was the only Jew among Poles, Italians and Irish who taunted him and called him "Jew-boy," predicting that he wouldn't hold out very long at that difficult work. But he proved the saying, "He who laughs last laughs best," and remained in the building business for 70 years, first as a laborer, then as a contractor for homes, stores and factories, earning himself a fine reputation in all the state of Maryland. He was elected as a lifetime honorary chairman of the Jewish Builders Association.

He acquired his good name not only as an outstanding builder; his warm heart, open hand and keen interest in all Jewish matters were well known.

World War II and the Holocaust which wiped out all of his family in Wolyn, including his sister Mindl Merin and his cousins with their families, had a terrible effect on him. Only his younger brother, Yehuda, had survived. Abraham became active in every organization that contributed to the rehabilitation of survivors. With Israel's Declaration of Independence he saw himself as a conscripted soldier and became active in the Zionist groups in Baltimore.

He was an honorary member of the board of directors of the Technion in Haifa and of Kfar Silver and donated equipment to the audiology department in the Tel Hashomer hospital - and more.

His last visit (of 10) to Israel was in 1974. Through the years he was overjoyed at every new project and factory, but was saddened by all the difficulties with which Israel had to cope.

He and his wife Hennia planned to celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary, but to our sorrow he passed away, aged nearly 90, close to the appointed date.

It may be said of Abraham Guttman that he was a man of the people. Everyone in our group knew him and referred to him as "Avremel of Horodok," as he wished and as he saw himself despite the fact that he lived in the United States for 75 years. He never forgot his roots, his birthplace, the ancient town of Horodok.

I, the son of his sister, and my family mourn his passing. "Woe for those who are gone and cannot be replaced."

